

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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PASS AGRICULTURE

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TAGS: EAGR, EEC, ETRD

SUBJECT: EC COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS, JANUARY 20-21, 1975

REF: A) EC BRUSSELS 9750 OF 12/11/74 B) EC BRUSSELS 00339

C) EC BRUSSELS 00498

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: THE EC COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS HAD SCRAPPED ITS PREVIOUS INTENTION TO FIX 1975/75 FARM SUPPORT PRICES BEFORE FEBRUARY 1, 1975. THE MINISTERS OKAYED EC IMPORT SUBSIDIZATION FOR A SECOND TRACHE OF 300,000M.T. OF SUGAR. THE NEXT AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 10-11, 1975 END SUMMARY.

2. CONCEDING THAT MEMBER STATE POSITIONS ARE STILL FAR APART, THE EC AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS ENDED THEIR JANUARY 20-21 COUNCIL MEETING WITH NO DECISION ON NEXT SEASON'S FARM PRICES. THE MINISTERS COMPLETED THEIR REVIEW OF THE COMMISSION'S PRICE PROPOSALS FOR ALL COMMODITIES, WITH NO CHANGE IN MEMBER STATE POSITIONS AS EXPRESSED IN THE LAST TWO COUNCIL MEETINGS (REFS. A AND B).

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3. IN ORDER TO AVOID PENALIZING THE FARMER FOR COUNCIL IN-
DECISION, THE MINISTERS AGREED THAT WHEN 1975/76 BUTTER AND
MILK POWDER SUPPORT PRICES ARE FIXED, THEY WILL BE RETROACTIVE
TO FEBRUARY 3, 1975. FOR BEEF, THE 1974/75 SUPPORT PRICES ARE
EXTENDED UNTIL MARCH 2, 1975.

4. REACTION TO THE U.K. PROPOSAL FOR DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS ON BEEF
WAS MIXED ONLY IN TERMS OF DEGREE OF OPPOSITION, BUT UK MINISTER
PEART SAID HE WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESS THIS ISSUE AS PART OF HIS
GOVERNMENT'S RENEGOTIATION DEMANDS. ALTHOUGH THE UK DID NOT RAISE
AGAIN ITS PROPOSAL FOR A LEVY-FREE QUOTA ON HARD WHEAT, IT MAY
TRY TO LINK THIS PROPOSAL TO THE FINAL PRICE PACKAGE. ACCORDING
TO PERMREP SOURCES, OTHER MEMBER STATE DELEGATIONS FELT THERE WAS
LITTLE CHANCE OF SUCH A QUOTA BEING APPROVED.

5. THE FRENCH CATTLE SUBSIDY PLAN PRESENTED JANUARY 20 (REF :)
RECEIVED LITTLE COMMENT DURING THIS COUNCIL SESSION.

6. THE COUNCIL AGREED ON EC IMPORT SUBSIDIZATION OF A SECOND TRACHE
OF 300,000M.T. OF SUGAR, OUT OF WHICH 2000,000M.T. WILL BE SUBSIDIZED
RIGHT AWAY EITHER THROUGH THE COMPETITIVE TENDERING SYSTEM USED
FOR THE FIRST TRANCHE OR THROUGH DIRECT SUBSIDIES FIXED BY THE COMMIS-
SION. THE REMAINING 100,000M.T. WILL BE HELD IN RESERVE FOR THE
PRESENT TIME.

7. ITALY EXPRESSED GREAT DISPLEASURE OVER THE FACT THAT IT HAD
GOTTEN PRECIOUS LITTLE OF THE FIRST TRANCHE OF SUGAR IMPORTS FOR
WHICH THERE HAD BEEN COMPETITIVE TENDERING.
GREENWALD

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